



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 364**

February Session, 2010

Substitute House Bill No. 5302

*House of Representatives, April 7, 2010*

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING AN ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As part of the  
2 comprehensive strategic planning process established under  
3 subsection (b) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes, the  
4 Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop a plan to  
5 achieve improved outcomes for clients of the Department of Children  
6 and Families' child welfare bureau who receive family preservation  
7 and support services. In developing the plan, the department shall: (1)  
8 Conduct an assessment of the service needs of the department's child  
9 welfare client population, including, at a minimum, an analysis of  
10 current service system capacity and demand, as indicated by program  
11 wait list information; and (2) examine relevant research to identify the  
12 most effective service models, including, but not limited to, evidence-  
13 based models, for meeting such needs. Not later than September 1,

14 2011, the department shall submit a draft plan to the office of the court  
15 monitor at the Department of Children and Families, the Child  
16 Advocate and the State Advisory Council on Children and Families for  
17 review and comment.

18 (b) Not later than July 15, 2012, the Commissioner of Children and  
19 Families shall submit the final plan, in accordance with the provisions  
20 of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees  
21 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
22 human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies,  
23 and the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee.  
24 The final plan shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Summaries of the  
25 client needs assessment and relevant research on program  
26 effectiveness; (2) a description of (A) the services provided under each  
27 child welfare family preservation and support program as it currently  
28 operates, (B) all services under the child welfare family preservation  
29 and support programs that the department intends to provide as a  
30 result of its needs assessment and completed research on program  
31 effectiveness at current funding levels, and (C) anticipated services  
32 that would be provided under each program in the event of a ten per  
33 cent increase or ten per cent decrease from the current funding levels;  
34 (3) a detailed description of the procedures and resources needed to  
35 maintain adequate quality assurance and quality improvement  
36 functions for the department's child welfare family preservation and  
37 support programs; (4) comments on the plan, if any, received from the  
38 court monitor at the Department of Children and Families, the Child  
39 Advocate, and the State Advisory Council on Children and Families;  
40 and (5) a timetable setting forth steps for plan implementation over a  
41 five-year time period through July 15, 2017. The final plan shall also  
42 include a strategy for ensuring the department only provides child  
43 welfare family preservation and support programs and services that  
44 are based on research demonstrating their effectiveness, or when such  
45 research is not available, evidence the programs and services are  
46 meeting identified client needs. In addition, the final plan shall include  
47 a process for collecting and analyzing the data needed to evaluate the  
48 effectiveness of such programs and services.



The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	\$125,000 - \$150,000	\$125,000- \$150,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

A comprehensive assessment to determine the needs of the state's child welfare population, and an evaluation of effective service models, would require the Department of Children and Families to retain outside consultant services at a cost of \$250,000 - \$300,000 over a two year period.

No funding has been included for these purposes within sHB 5018 (the Revised FY 11 Budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee). Without sufficient funding, the scope of assessment and evaluation activities would be expected to be restricted to currently reported data on family preservation and support services, and known effective service models, satisfying the bill's minimum requirements.

**The Out Years**

There is no fiscal impact in the out years.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5302*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING AN ACTION PLAN TO IMPROVE FAMILY PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

By law, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is required to establish five-year strategic plans and submit them to the legislature. This bill requires DCF, within the confines of that law, to develop a plan to achieve improved outcomes for family preservation and support services clients. These services are intended to help at-risk families remain intact.

Under the bill, DCF must (1) assess the service needs of its child welfare population, including an analysis of the department's current service capacity and demand, as indicated by client waiting lists, and (2) examine research to identify the most effective service models to meet clients' needs, including evidence-based models.

**DRAFT AND FINAL PLANS**

By September 1, 2011, the commissioner must submit a draft plan to the Juan F. court monitor, child advocate, and State Advisory Council on Children and Families for their review and comment.

By July 15, 2012, she must submit the final plan to the Appropriations, Human Services, and Program Review and Investigations committees. The plan must include:

1. summaries of the client needs assessment and relevant research on program effectiveness;
2. descriptions of (a) services provided under each child welfare

family preservation and support program it operates, (b) all services provided under programs it plans to operate as a result of its needs assessment and completed research on program effectiveness at current funding levels, and (c) anticipated services under each program in the event its funding level increases or decreases by 10%;

3. a detailed description of procedures and resources needed to maintain adequate quality assurance and improved functions for its family preservation and support services program;
4. comments received from any of the entities to which the commissioner submitted its draft plan; and
5. a timetable showing steps for a five-year plan implementation ending July 15, 2017.

The plan must also include a strategy for ensuring that DCF only provides family preservation and support services that are based on research demonstrating their effectiveness or, when research is not available, evidence the programs and services are meeting identified client needs. The plan must also include a process for collecting and analyzing the data needed to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services.

Though DCF must develop five-year plans, current law, unchanged by the bill, requires the department to submit them to the legislature every other year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Program Review and Investigations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference  
Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2010)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 5 (03/23/2010)